



# THE AFTERMATH

NEARLY TWO YEARS AFTER THE WORST NATURAL  
DISASTER IN U.S. HISTORY, THE CLEAN UP CONTINUES.





## A New Era Begins...

Greetings from the Jemal Riverside Building in Washington, D.C., the new home of CG-13 and *The Reservist* magazine! We relocated here on April 27. The Jemal Building is only a quarter mile from the Headquarters Building, is on the Anacostia River, and overlooks the Washington Nationals' new stadium that is springing up before our eyes. I believe this marks the first time the Office of Reserve Affairs has been located in a building other than the HQ building since the office was established in April 1963. The good news is our contact info, including phones, staff symbol and e-mail address remain the same.

You'll begin to see some changes in the magazine too. We're talking about bringing back "Coast to Coast Reserve." This was a section that ran during the 1990s, featuring news from every district. You'll see more statistics to tell the CGR story. So send in your stories, photos, interesting tidbits and ideas.

Meanwhile, this issue is packed with all kinds of interesting stuff. Congratulations to CAPT Dale Rausch who retired April 26 after nearly 30 years service to the Coast Guard. He had served as Chief, Office of Reserve Affairs the last two years. Relieving him is CAPT Andrea Contratto, the first woman to serve in this important position. Articles on both of them are published herein. Speaking of CAPT Contratto, she and LT Christa Jackson co-authored an excellent article on the CGR budget running in this issue as well.

YNC Linda Laswell is the first reservist to be the recipient of this year's MCPO Angela M. McShan Inspirational Leadership Award. Retired RADM Stephen Rochon (a former Reserve Program Administrator) was recently named the eighth Head Usher at the White House. Wow!

The Coast Guard remains on the front lines in helping clean-up after Hurricane Katrina (see cover story), and continues to support OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, as evidenced by CWO3 George Paidousis' article. On a somber note, we lost PS3 Ronald A Gill Jr., USCGR, while deployed with MSST 91111 to the Puget Sound area on March 25. Think of him when you hear "Taps" during upcoming Memorial Day ceremonies.

Finally, I've started an archival project I've had in mind for a long time, and I think many of you will really like it. The project goal is to get all the back issues of *The Reservist* on line beginning with the first issue in November 1953. I started this in mid-April with the first issue and will be adding about two issues per day. As of this writing, I've posted 16 of these through March 1955. If you get a chance, check it out on the Reserve Web site ([www.uscg.mil/reserve](http://www.uscg.mil/reserve), then click on the cover of current Reservist and scroll down to the archive). It's a lot of fun to read these, and you'll be amazed at how many of today's issues were somewhat the same 50-plus years ago.

— ED

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## 26 The Aftermath

The clean up continues  
in the Gulf Coast  
nearly two years after  
the worst natural  
disaster in U.S. history.



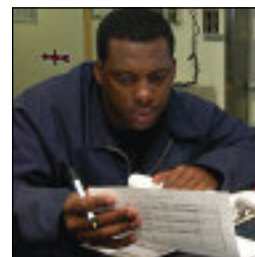
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yourself ready, so you can get  
yourself advanced.

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## A Coastie in Baghdad

A first person account of a Coast Guard  
Reservist's deployment to Iraq.



### The Coast Guard Lady Tribute

Thanks for your tribute to “The Coast Guard Lady,” Lois Bouton, in your 2-07 issue. I first read about her in the Commandant’s Bulletin sometime in the 1980s. I lived in and was a drilling reservist in Monroe, La. I wrote a letter of thanks to this awesome person who brought a smile to many Coasties on isolated duty. My letter initiated a response that has lasted to this day. She was invited and attended a change-of-command ceremony at our unit. I in turn visited her home in Rogers, Ark.

Although your article was very thorough, it left out the fact that her home, excuse me, her museum, has on its walls pictures of several CG Headquarters change-of-command ceremonies at Washington, D.C. in which she is pictured next to the old and new Commandant. Also, she has a picture of her next to retired CG Chief Journalist Alex Haley, author of the famous novel *Roots*.

Lois Bouton’s dedication to the Coast Guard goes beyond anything I have ever heard about. If she is at a ceremony that mentions or plays the service songs for the other services, you can be assured that if they left out the Coast Guard, she will bring it to their attention. At 87 years of age, her passion still is on fire for the Coast Guard. Being on a fixed income and still sending out her newsletter by first class mail is going beyond the call of duty.

Many serve their time in the Coast Guard active duty or reserve, putting in 20 or 30 good years before calling it quits. Here is a lady that does not know the word “retire.” Sixty-four years after she first entered the Coast Guard she is still going strong. The Reservist article mentioned the many lighthouses found in her home, but there is no light that shines brighter than that from the heart of this dedicated servant. “Thank you Lois Bouton and may God continue to bless your life as you bless others.”

— **CDR A. J. “Skip” Caissie, Jr., USCGR(Ret.)**  
**Monroe, La.**

### Proud of Reservists

I was saddened when I read the articles in the 1-07 issue of The Reservist concerning the deaths of USCGR PS1 Steve Favela and MK1 Brian Bernier. Both men were doing what they were trained and dedicated to do as citizens and Coast Guard Reservists. After reading the articles, it is very clear what type of men and women serve in our Armed Forces and particularly the United States Coast Guard Reserve. I have always been proud of my association with the Coast Guard Reserve and particularly the type of individuals such as reservists Bernier and Favela.

— **PSC Jim Tagart, USCGR(Ret.)**  
**Mount Vernon, Wash.**



**Ed’s note:** Officer Steve Favela’s death was also noted in the February 2007 issue of The Police Chief magazine, Page 101 ([www.policechiefmagazine.org](http://www.policechiefmagazine.org)).

### Shape Up or Ship Out!?

Issue 1-07 was a very nice recent edition of The Reservist. I knew the almond-farming admiral (RDML Michael Seward, “A View from the Tractor,” Page 10) when he was a lieutenant way back when. It sounds like he means business ... never read anything like that before in The Reservist. Those are strong words for the troops to shape up or ship out.

— **PAC Ron Cabral, USCGR(Ret.)**  
**San Francisco, Calif.**

### Ye Last Official Thank You

I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude, deepest respect and most of all, the friendship all of you have bestowed on me over the years.

Uncle Sam says I’m too old to play anymore so it’s time for this “Old Irish Warrant” to step aside and let the new generation take the helm. I guess after serving through three different government agencies, eight presidents, and 11 commandants, maybe it is time to hang up the uniform. I really don’t know where the past 41 years have gone — probably the same place my blonde hair went.

I’ve always tried to do my best, and all of you have guided, influenced and pushed me to that level. The Coast Guard has changed over the years but the caliber of its people has not. The dedication, professionalism and hard work all of you have shared with me have made me a better person and a stronger supporter of our great organization. I’ve been very fortunate to serve for such a long period of time, and my memories will last even longer. I sincerely hope we can remain in touch, so we can still share a laugh or a sea story together. May God bless and watch over all of you, and may Saint Patrick keep your glass full and free of snakes. Beir bua agus beannacht (Irish Gaelic for “Your Friend and Shipmate.”)

— **CWO4 Donald F. Allen, USCGR(Ret.)**  
**Suffolk, Va.**

**Ed’s note:** CWO4 Allen served in the Coast Guard Reserve from August 1966 through February 2007. See his photo in the “Retirements” section.

### Chief’s Cutlass?

A group of us were discussing our recent experiences at the CPO Academy. Several of us in two separate classes heard while we were there that a cutlass for CPOs in their Full Dress Uniforms had either already been approved, or was being considered. There was apparently even already a company (I don’t remember the name) that offered a chief’s cutlass

commercially as I actually saw a printed spec sheet from the company’s Web site. We have talked to several of our CPO messmates around the country, but nobody has been able to provide us anything specific beyond the rumor circulated at Petaluma. Any ideas? Thanks.

— **PSC Robert W. Young Jr., USCGR**  
**North Charleston, S.C.**

**Ed’s note:** CWO2 Tarvin Greene of the Uniform Policy and Standards Division at Headquarters confirmed that *this is just a rumor. He has not seen or heard of any plans to adopt a chief’s cutlass.*

### “Recycle” Your Reservist

As a long-time reader of The Reservist magazine, I enjoy the many articles and general information it contains about our Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve. The Reservist magazine is a great publication and I hate to throw it away when I am finished with an issue. I look for places where I can leave it where it will give wider exposure of the Coast Guard to the general public and potential new military, civilian, and auxiliary shipmates for Team Coast Guard. I have left copies at my local high school, library, barbershop, doctors’ offices and auto shop. I invite you to do the same.

— **LCDR Paul Redmond, USCGR(Ret.)**  
**Falls Church, Va.**

### It’s a “Reserve Thing!”

I’m a reservist on active duty and a uniform question came up in our department recently. I pulled out my trusty issue on uniforms and clarified the dispute. Now here was the fun part! The questions started coming as to where I got “this book” on uniforms? I informed them it was a Reserve thing and they wouldn’t understand! I got the “deer in the headlight” look. Once again, *The Reservist* was out there with information the whole Coast Guard needs — good job! Ya’ll are a great resource for us — thanks.

— **CWO3 Robert S. Healy, USCGR**  
**Portsmouth, Va.**

### Corrections

- *The 2007 Flag officer assignments published in Issue 1-07 (Page 11) listed RDML Lloyd as David B. Lloyd, and should have been RDML Daniel B. Lloyd. He will serve as DHS Military Advisor to S-1.*
- *The CIAO Summary that was published in Issue 1-07 (Page 13) read “current as of 1/29/06” should read “current as of 1/29/07.”*

*We regret the errors and thank our readers for pointing out the mistakes.*



## S N A P S H O T

*Here is the breakdown of officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel in the Coast Guard Selected Reserve:*



**Total SELRES Members**  
**7,893**

*Source: Mr. David Maynard, CG-1313, Reserve Information and Evaluations Division. Current as of February 2007.*



SAN FRANCISCO — A helicopter crew from Air Station San Francisco and CGC SOCKEYE from Station Bodega Bay escort the Queen Mary 2 into San Francisco Bay Feb. 4, 2007. The 1,131-foot oceanliner is the largest vessel to ever enter San Francisco Bay. The ship, carrying 2,620 passengers, was on an 81-day, around-the-world cruise.

Photo by PA1 Sherri Eng







NEW YORK — Reservists assigned to Sector New York's MSST 91106 Unit participate in their annual cold water survival qualifications. In order to remain qualified for the MSST, each member must stay in the water for 15 long cold minutes. During this evolution, the water temperature was 37 degrees.  
Photo by PAC Bob Laura



FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Crewmembers from the CGC CONFIDENCE, home ported in Port Canaveral, Fla., and Coast Guard Station Ft. Lauderdale interdict a Coast Guard Auxiliary boat posing as a suspected smuggling vessel during OPERATION VIGILANT SENTRY in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., March 8.  
Photo by PA1 Tasha Tully





KODIAK, Alaska — The CGC STORIS heads out into open water as it departs Kodiak for the last time March 12, 2007. The STORIS was decommissioned Feb. 8, 2007 after more than 64 years of service.  
USCG photo by PA1 Kurt Fredrickson







By  
RADM John C. Acton,  
USCGR

Deputy Commander  
for Mobilization &  
Reserve Affairs,  
USCG Atlantic Area

## “We’re not warriors?”

**A**s a central part of the Coast Guard’s workforce, the Commandant’s Reserve Policy Statement clearly lays out three Reserve missions:

- 1) **Maritime Homeland Security (MHS), which includes port security and Maritime Security (MARSEC) conditions;**
- 2) **National defense, whether domestic or expeditionary; and**
- 3) **Disaster response, whether natural or man-made.**

You’ve seen this before. They confirm our character as Maritime, Military and Multi-mission, and are the missions we recruit, train and equip ourselves to perform. To better fulfill our mission set, we have a number of initiatives underway:

- **RSAT Validation:** Subsequent to our historic mobilization in 2003 in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, a Reserve Strategic Assessment Team (RSAT) identified some 88 gaps or issues with the Reserve program. Since then, much has been accomplished to correct those gaps. To validate that the corrective measures taken have been effective in addressing the problems, we’ve established a Validation Team being led by CAPT John Welch. This effort consists of two Reserve teams, one from LANT Area and one from PAC Area, who are going into the field to validate the work that’s been done. An issue won’t be marked off the list as “corrected” until we know it works for you in the field.
- **CPRL Review:** An effort is underway to complete work on the Contingency Personnel Requirements List (CPRL), which is a complete list of the billets we need for contingency operations. This work will likely be led by CG-3 at Headquarters (the Operations Directorate) and will directly impact our Reserve Personnel Allowance List (RPAL) including the skills sets that the Reserve Force will need to execute our missions.
- **Small Boat Colleges:** In an effort to improve how we can use our limited training time more effectively, a review is underway of the best practices from the various “small boat colleges” that have been developed in the field.

- **Commandant’s Intent Action Order #9:** This initiative will recommend substantial changes to the Reserve Force, certainly the biggest changes in the past 15 years. It will now be integrated with the Commandant’s other strategic initiatives under the guidance of RADM Jody Breckenridge. Stand by for more news from this effort.

Now, all of these initiatives are focused on a single goal — to make the Reserve Force as effective and efficient as possible in executing our three missions. It’s important to note that our mission set includes both Title 14 law enforcement, as well as Title 10 military operations. As specified in the law, we are at all times, simultaneously, both a law enforcement agency and a military service. This is very important. These dual characteristics make us a unique and particularly effective instrument of national power.

Consequently, I’m personally disappointed when I hear that a Coast Guard Reservist has commented that, “We’re not warriors.” Wrong!

Increasingly, our military mission (being “purple” or joint) is a valued Reserve capability within the Coast Guard. We have well over 15 percent of our Reserve Force (that’s over 1,100 reserve billets) assigned to our eight port security units (PSUs) alone. Add to that the 100 joint billets we have in Coast Guard Reserve Units (CGRUs) at the DoD combatant commands, and within the Naval Coastal Warfare community. That’s a substantial commitment we’ve made to fulfill our Title 10 responsibilities — as warriors. It’s part of who we are.

As you well know, we all serve voluntarily, without any draft or duress. Part of our personal duty, as volunteers, is to be prepared to serve wherever and whenever called.

So let’s be clear. We’re volunteers in a unique organization, one that straddles the law enforcement and military worlds. We don’t pick and choose which mission we prefer or when we answer the call. We serve when called. It’s who we are and it’s what we do. And, yep, one of our priority missions is to defend the nation as a military service.

Yes, sometimes we’re warriors. If you can’t embrace the full set of Coast Guard missions in a post-9/11 world, then perhaps you’re in the wrong organization. For the Reserve Force, we need volunteers who serve because they want to be here — they fully understand and embrace our full mission set — and they’re ready and “good to go.” That’s what makes us Semper Paratus.

*Yes, sometimes we’re warriors. If you can’t embrace the full set of Coast Guard missions in a post-9/11 world, then perhaps you’re in the wrong organization. For the Reserve Force, we need volunteers who serve because they want to be here — they fully understand and embrace our full mission set — and they’re ready and “good to go.”*

## Chief of Reserve Affairs Retires

Grateful captain says USCG was “natural fit”

WASHINGTON, D.C. — CAPT Dale Rausch bid farewell to the service after nearly 30 years of active and inactive duty with a modest retirement ceremony at Coast Guard Headquarters April 26.

Rausch, who first enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in 1977, had been Chief of the Office of Reserve Affairs (CG-131) since August 2005 after a two-year tour as Commander of Sector Guam.

“I look back on my career with considerable satisfaction,” said Rausch. “I have had the opportunity to do some great jobs with some outstanding people, both active and Reserve. I’m looking forward to this next phase of my life, but I definitely will miss the daily interaction I’ve had with my fellow Coast Guard people.”

A Coast Guard Reserve Program Administrator (RPA) since 1987, his 20-year active-duty career included various assignments within the Reserve program. He served as Chief of Reserve Communications and Chief of Reserve Force Management at Headquarters, as well as Chief of Reserve Training at the Eighth District in New Orleans.

Rausch originally joined the Coast Guard Reserve in 1977 through the Direct Petty Officer program, qualifying as a boatswain’s mate due to his background in the maritime industry. He advanced to BM2 prior to earning a Reserve commission in 1980.

Rausch’s active career also included several tours in Prevention (formerly Marine Safety), including stints as a Marine Inspector and Investigator at Marine Safety Office (MSO) New Orleans, and tours as Chief Inspector and, later, Executive Officer of MSO Morgan City, La.

“I’ve always believed advocacy for individual reservists in the field is as important a function of RPAs as is managing the Reserve program itself,” said Rausch. “I believe I was able to do that effectively as a Coast Guard officer at operational units where reservists were part of the crews.”

During Rausch’s final tour, the Coast Guard Reserve recalled 700 members for rescue and recovery operations in the wakes of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and geared

up to respond to other domestic disasters while continuing to provide reservists to support the Global War on Terrorism, both at home and overseas.

The Coast Guard also continued its evolution first begun a decade ago with the full integration of reservists into active component units. In particular, a review chartered by then-Chief of Staff ADM Thad Allen identified the Coast Guard Reserve’s three core strategic functions:

Maritime Homeland Security, domestic and expeditionary support to national defense, and response to domestic disasters, both natural and man-made.

Those functions were enshrined in a policy statement signed by the Commandant in late 2005.

“When you come right down to it, the functions identified in the policy statement don’t represent anything new for the Coast Guard Reserve,” Rausch said. “But they do help sharpen our focus in this post-9/11 environment. But in the end, it’s all about having trained, qualified people ready to support Coast Guard missions. That’s what the Coast Guard Reserve is about.”

During his retirement ceremony, CAPT Andrea Contratto, another veteran RPA and the first woman to serve as Chief of the Office of Reserve Affairs, formally relieved Rausch. Contratto had served as Chief, Reserve Programs Division at Headquarters (CG-1312) since 2005.

Rausch, a Maryland native who grew up on and around the waters of Chesapeake Bay, graduated from St. Mary’s College in St. Mary’s City, Md. in 1971 before serving as the college’s waterfront director. He helped found what would become a leading collegiate sailing team.

Although Rausch looks forward to spending more time plying local waters in his own boat, retirement plans include full-time employment, quite likely in the maritime industry. Prior to becoming an RPA, he served as a deck seamanship instructor at a private Maryland institution that trains prospective commercial mariners.

“I grew up on boats and around the water,” said Rausch. “Serving in the Coast Guard was a natural fit for me. I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to serve in this great organization.”



CAPT Dale Rausch



CDR Dale Rausch in 1999 as Chief, Reserve Information Division



## Contratto Takes Helm as Chief of Reserve Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With her relief of CAPT Dale Rausch on April 26, CAPT Andrea Contratto has earned the distinction of being the first woman to serve as Chief of the Office of Reserve Affairs.

Taking charge of the daily management of the Reserve program is also a significant milestone for Contratto, a Reserve Program Administrator (RPA) whose Coast Guard career began with her enlistment in 1978 as a Reserve yeoman.

“I’m really pleased to see someone I first met as a dedicated, hard-working YN1 move up the ranks to the senior leadership position in the RPA Corps,” said CAPT Mike Price, an RPA and chief of the Reserve Personnel Management Division at the Coast Guard Personnel Command in Arlington, Va. “CAPT Contratto is going to do a great job.”

As a yeoman, Contratto drilled at Reserve Group Monterey and Reserve Unit Station Channel Islands in California before graduating from Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination in July 1984 with the rank of ensign. Contratto subsequently served in several Bay Area reserve units until she became an RPA in 1988 with an initial assignment to the Reserve Programs Division at Headquarters.

After finishing graduate school in 1991, she completed tours at Training Center Yorktown and Integrated Support Command Portsmouth in Virginia. She also served as Chief of Auxiliary and Recreational Boating Safety for the Fifth District before returning to Reserve program management at Headquarters in 2005.

As Chief of the Reserve Programs Division, Contratto played a key role in the day-to-day management of the Coast Guard Reserve, including administering a \$122.4-million budget earmarked by



**CAPT Andrea Contratto, left, shakes hands with MCPO Jeff Smith, Master Chief of the Coast Guard Reserve Force.**

Congress to pay, train and support 8,100 Selected Reservists. In addition, Contratto has helped guide the effort directed by Coast Guard Commandant ADM Thad Allen to transform the Reserve Component to ensure “optimal organization, administration, recruiting, instruction, development and training” of reservists. Although the work directed by the Commandant in his ninth “Commandant’s Intent Action Order” is far from complete, it may bring significant improvements in management of the Reserve workforce.

“This is a very challenging time for the Reserve program and the small staff

we have here at Headquarters, particularly because we are literally in the process of defining the future,” said outgoing Reserve chief Rausch. “I am confident that CAPT Contratto will provide the leadership necessary to make sure we build the support system reservists in the field require to do their jobs.”

After nearly three decades as a drilling reservist and an RPA, Contratto anticipates this assignment as one in which “I am positioned to play a leading role in shaping decisions regarding what the Reserve management system will look like within a transformed Coast Guard.”

“We must attract, train, and retain the best people we can and provide them with an effective support system managed by a corps of highly qualified and motivated RPAs,” said Contratto. “We also need to manage our appropriation funds wisely to ensure our people are trained and ready. I’m looking forward to the challenge of our future.”

## Reservist Killed in Line of Duty

### PS3 Ronald A. Gill Jr. dies following boating accident

SEATTLE — A 26-year-old Coast Guard Reservist was killed in the line of duty following a boating mishap in Puget Sound March 25.

PS3 Ronald A. Gill Jr., USCGR, died of head trauma after being ejected from his 25-foot patrol boat and being struck by the port prop. A reservist on active duty, Gill was deployed to Seattle from Anchorage, Alaska and was on patrol with other members of MSST 91111 when the accident occurred north of

Vashon Island, Wash. Despite immediate response by Coast Guard units to provide first aid and quickly transport him to nearby Harborview Medical Center, Gill succumbed to his injuries.

The day of the accident was the final scheduled day of operations for MSST Anchorage, which had been deployed during the month of March. An investigation is underway to determine the circumstances leading up to the accident.

Gill had served the Coast Guard since October 2003. His previous assignments included MSO Providence, R.I. and PSU 301, Cape Cod, Mass. He had been assigned to MSST Anchorage since August 2004. Prior to joining the Coast Guard Reserve, he had been



working as a chef, but following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, “He felt compelled to protect his country,” his father, Ronald Gill Sr. said.

“Coast Guard men and women operate in hazardous environments every day, yet we must always remain vigilant,” said ADM Thad Allen in an All Hands message released March 27. “PS3 Gill made the ultimate sacrifice for his nation. We are proud of his selfless service and honor him by our continued dedication to the important work we do for the American people.”

A native of Cranston, R.I., Gill is survived by his wife, Amber; parents, Rosemary and Ronald Gill Sr.; and a brother, Jonathan.

A funeral Mass for PS3 Gill was celebrated at St. Ann’s Catholic Church in Cranston, R.I. March 31. During his funeral services, the national ensign was flown at half-mast on all PACAREA Coast Guard buildings, grounds, and vessels not underway. Interment was at Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter, R.I.

In lieu of flowers, the Gill family requests donations made to the Red Cross of Rhode Island, 105 Gano Street, Providence, RI 02906 in the name of PS3 Ronald A. Gill Jr.



## Record Drug Bust for USCG

**LEFT: The CGC SHERMAN cruises alongside the Panamanian flagged motor vessel Gatun off the coast of Panama March 18. Crews of CGC SHERMAN and CGC HAMILTON seized 42,845 pounds of cocaine from the vessel, making it the largest maritime drug bust ever for the Coast Guard.**



**RIGHT: Some of the estimated 20 tons of cocaine seized by the U.S. Coast Guard March 18 off the coast of Panama, rests aboard the Panamanian motor vessel Gatun. CGC SHERMAN and CGC HAMILTON assisted in the largest drug bust ever for the Coast Guard — 42,845 pounds of cocaine.**



USCG photos by DTI Public Affairs

## You’re grounded!



**TAMPA, Fla. – The Panamanian-flagged freighter vessel Antilles II is assisted by two tug boats after running aground near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in Tampa, Fla. The vessel ran aground after losing power to its main propulsion in the early morning hours of March 28.**

Photo by PA3 Robert L. Simpson, USCG



# Reservist receives McShan Leadership Award

PORT ARTHUR, Texas — Coast Guard Reservist YNC Linda Laswell has been selected as the recipient of this year’s MCPO Angela M. McShan Inspirational Leadership Award. This prestigious annual award recognizes one Coast Guard chief petty officer (E-7 only), active duty or reserve, who best exemplifies the Coast Guard core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty. The award’s namesake, MCPO Angela McShan, was the first female African-American in the Coast Guard to be advanced to master chief and was a leading member of the Chief Petty Officers Academy staff, in the late 1990s, before she passed away Dec. 29, 2000.

Laswell is a recalled reservist who serves on active duty at MSU Port Arthur as the Administrative Branch Chief. She manages a nine-person staff supporting a unit with 75 active duty, 92 mobilized reservists, 24 Selected Reservists and 35 civilians.

During her tenure at MSU Port Arthur, the performance of the administrative branch has improved dramatically. Laswell has used Individual Development Plans, daily dialogue and led training sessions aimed at raising the technical proficiency of her staff.

In June 2006, following one of the largest oil spills in Lake Charles, La., Laswell was specifically asked to run the Incident Command Systems Resources Unit and earned praise from all levels of the ICS organization. She also participated in the Congressional National Guard and Reserve Commission testimony pool where she provided firsthand experience and knowledge about Coast Guard mobilization to members of Congress. A Habitat for Humanity volunteer, Laswell was also awarded the Spirit of the Chief Award at her recent Reserve CPO Academy graduation.

“This is truly an honor,” said Laswell. “I have had some excellent leaders in my Coast Guard career and I hope they are proud of this accomplishment. So many times people tell me about a leader from their past and it generally starts with, ‘I had a boss once that I thought was way too hard on me. She/he

would make me fix my errors or she/he wouldn’t let me get away with anything. But now I am glad they were strong and held me accountable, as it has made me a better person and a stronger leader.’ Sometimes I think we fail our members by not wanting to deal with conflict and letting everything slide. I hope the members I have had the honor to work with say one day, ‘That Chief Laswell, I thought she was way too tough on me, but I am now glad she was.’”

Others nominated for this award included: MKC Matthew Ripley, CGC BARANOF; BMC James Ellison, Station Michigan City, Ind.; BMC Michael Pipech, CGC HOLLYHOCK; BMC Stephen Engle, Station Rochester, N.Y.; and MKC Christopher Davis, CGC RELIANCE.

Laswell was recognized at the Inspirational Leadership Awards presentation ceremony April 17 at Coast Guard Headquarters. ALCOAST 123/07 announced the award winner.



YNC Linda Laswell

# ISC St. Louis hosts Missouri ESGR

ST. LOUIS — If you have been in the Coast Guard Reserve for any time at all, then you are likely familiar with the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). Established in 1972, ESGR’s goal is to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers, and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee’s military commitment.

ISC St. Louis and Sector Upper Mississippi River recently hosted the Missouri Commission for ESGR to promote awareness and understanding between employers and their Coast Guard Reserve employees. This was an opportunity for the ISC and Sector to showcase the many missions of the Coast Guard to the people who employ reservists and to demonstrate to them what their employees do when they are called to duty for training, augmentation or mobilization.

During the event, the Missouri ESGR group received a Coast Guard mission overview that focused on local ISC and Sector missions on the Western Rivers, and the key role reservists play in achieving those missions. This was immediately followed by two static displays: the Disaster Assist Response Team (DART) and a Response Boat-Small (RB-S). Reservists, acting as subject matter experts for the DART and RB-S, shared their experiences and highlighting the assets main roles. The day finished off with a tour of the CGC CHEYENNE.

This event established a foundation for employers to understand their employee’s role in the Coast Guard. By exposing employers to what their employees do when away from their civilian job and working for the Coast Guard, it is hoped that employers better understand that Reservists perform a critical role in the safety and security of the nation.



The Missouri Commission for ESGR visits Coast Guard assets during the recent ESGR event held in the St. Louis area.

They may also become advocates for Coast Guard Reservists and tell their employees and co-workers the great things the Coast Guard does — and that can only help the Coast Guard down the road.

If you would like more information about ESGR, contact them at: Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, 1555 Wilson Blvd, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22209-2405, 1-800-336-4590, Web: [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org)

Story and photo by  
LCDR William “Dan” Harris, ISC St. Louis



President George W. Bush welcomes U.S. Coast Guard RADM Stephen W. Rochon to the Oval Office. Rochon was appointed as Director of the Executive Residence and Chief Usher. He will be the eighth Chief Usher of the White House.

## Retired Coast Guardsman named eighth White House Chief Usher

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President George W. Bush recently announced the appointment of RADM Stephen W. Rochon as Director of the Executive Residence and Chief Usher.

Rochon will be the eighth Chief Usher of the White House. He served his last day on active duty with the Coast Guard on March 9, and began his service at the White House on March 12. He succeeds Gary Walters, who retired in January 2007 after 20 years as White House Chief Usher.

“Admiral Rochon is a gifted leader and experienced manager who will be a great addition to the White House and the Residence staff,” said President Bush. “Laura and I look forward to working with him.”

With 36 years in public service, Rochon has an extensive background in personnel management, strategic planning, and effective interagency coordination. A New Orleans native, he served as the Coast Guard’s Director of Personnel Management in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricanes.

Rochon enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1970. He rose through the enlisted ranks and received a commission as an ensign in 1975 from the Officer Candidate School at Yorktown, Va. Rochon served as a Reserve Program Administrator for part of his career. He holds a B.S. in business administration from Xavier University of Louisiana and a M.S in national resource strategy from the National Defense University.

— From White House Web Site  
Personnel Announcement News



Photo courtesy RDML Michael Seward, USCGR

## Commandant visits Coasties in Kuwait

ADM Thad W. Allen paid a visit to Coast Guard members serving in Kuwait with Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron (NCWRON)-34 during February 2007. Kneeling, left to right: MK2 Po-Chien Wang, OS2 Patricia Kline, LCDR Rafael Ortiz. Standing, l to r: YN2 Kay Dolan, OS2 DeWayne Ferrell, OS1 Benjamin Eill, CWO2 Robert Stuckey, CWO4 Matthew Bucala, LT Karl Hellberg, ADM Thad Allen, OS2 Thomas Zeiner, OS1 Derrick McNeil, CAPT Carl Nagata, LTJG Andrew Taylor, PS3 Richard Franco, MSTC Dennis Chastain, LTJG Nicholas Osborne, RADM David Pekoske, CAPT Harold French.



## NORTHCOM Reserve Unit commissioned

*RADM John C. Acton, USCGR, Deputy Atlantic Area Commander for Mobilization and Reserve Component Affairs, right, inspects Reserve and active duty Coasties assigned to U.S. Northern Command during an April 23 commissioning ceremony for the new NORTHCOM Coast Guard Reserve Unit. CAPT Douglas A. Ash, USCGR, commands the new unit, based at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.*



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Gish, USAF



Photo by YNC Mary Fuldner, USCGR(Ret.)

### Lunch with Chief Allen

*DCC Clyde W. Allen, center (in beige shirt and ball cap), father of ADM Thad W. Allen, paid a lunchtime visit to the Washington, DC Chief Petty Officer Association's monthly meeting Feb. 8, 2007. Chief Allen retired from the Coast Guard Oct. 1, 1965.*

## All Hands in Wilmington



Photo by CDR Chris May, Senior Sector North Carolina Reserve Officer

*The MSU Wilmington, N.C. All Hands weekend Dec. 9-10 brought together most active duty and reserve members of the unit. It was held to conduct various required all-hands training as well as strategic planning.*

## GRADUATIONS



Photo by Mr. Scott Prince

### REBI Class Romeo 01-07

*Reserve Enlisted Basic Indoctrination Class Romeo 1-07 graduated Nov. 17, 2006 at Training Center Cape May, N.J. Front row, left to right: SN Michael Dalager, PS3 Anthony Treadwell, FN Scott Strong, PS3*

*Steven Byrnes, PS3 Timothy Hall, SN Angel Jones, SN John Sullivan. Back row, l to r: PS2 David Pierce, PS3 David Rocco, PS3 Sean Reagan, YN3 Scott Turner, YN3 Kimberly Milton, YN3 Tracy Clere, ET1 John Bishop,*

*SN Amanda Wilson, SN Christie Dean. Back row, far right, company commanders: DCC Lawrence Antonucci, MKCS Wayne Self, OS1 Thomas Carella.*

### REBI Class Romeo 02-07

*Reserve Enlisted Basic Indoctrination Class Romeo 2-07 graduated Jan. 19, 2007 at Training Center Cape May, N.J. Front row, left to right: PS3 Joe Murphy, SN Nicasio Arabe Jr., SN Michael Parker, SN William Haynie, YN3 Querida Alsip, SN Eaniel Kohner, SK3 Leon Pikor. Second row, l to r: IV3 Ernest Brown, SN Irwin Pascal, PS2 Joey McDonald, ET2 Thomas Whissel, SN Fernando Olvera, PS3 Jonathan Whitlock, SN Oscar Delatorre, MK3 John Mowery. Third row, l to r: SN Tyler Joki and IV2 David Odom. In back are company commanders, l to r: DCC Lawrence Antonucci, MKCS Wayne Self and OS1 Thomas Carella.*



Photo by Mr. Scott Prince



# Understanding the CGR Budget

By CAPT Andrea L. Contratto & LT Christa Jackson, USCGR  
Office of Reserve Affairs

Each year, the Coast Guard asks Congress for funding to support its programs. The funding requested to support the Reserve Component (RC) program is referred to as the Reserve Training (RT) Appropriation. The RT Appropriation (commonly called AFC-90) is monies provided for the training and administration of the RC. This article describes how this money supports reservists, Coast Guard units, and various Reserve and Active Component programs. We've tried to avoid using unfamiliar financial jargon and have used general terms with hopes that you will find this article readable and informative.

The RT Appropriation is generally divided into three pots:

- **ISC (pf) funds (15 percent of the FY07 Appropriation)**
- **Office of Reserve Affairs (CG-131) administered funds (39 percent of the FY07 Appropriation)**
- **Refund account funds (46 percent of the FY07 Appropriation)**

ISC funding is further broken down into four accounts: ADT-AT, which pays for all annual ADT; ADT-OTD, which is used to enhance readiness by providing additional training that results in a qualification; ADSW-RC, which brings members on duty to support Reserve programs; and IDT berthing.

We have been fortunate the past few years to be able to fully fund these accounts due primarily to the number of reservists on long-term active duty. However, for FY07, we have had to reduce the amount of ADT-OTD allocated to the ISCs, limiting their flexibility in approving ADT-OTD orders for "C" schools and other training beyond ADT-AT. In light of the limited ADT-OTD funds available, the member must submit training requests with sufficient advance notice to allow the ISC to effectively manage its funds while helping the command meet its operational requirements. Reservists are encouraged to use ADT-AT whenever possible to attend formal training or schools.

Two issues impacting the ISC accounts involve IDT berthing and ADT travel. With more and more reservists completing all of their IDT drills over the past 24 months, there has been a constant upward trend in expenditures against the IDT drill pay account. This is great news because an increase in the number of reservists

completing training periods improves our overall readiness to respond to contingencies. This correlates directly to the emphasis in the field for all reservists to perform 48 drills (60 where authorized). With more reservists drilling, IDT berthing is also being used more. We consider IDT berthing a valuable tool and benefit to encourage drilling. Although it is not an entitlement, we are committed to continue funding the account as fully as possible.

During FY06, ADT travel presented many challenges. Feedback received from the ISCs and reviews of AFC-90 accounts confirm several areas of concern including:

- **Accurate preparation of reserve orders helps to ensure the most accurate estimates are calculated for more effective management of AFC-90 funds.**
- **Failure to submit a timely travel claim ties up ADT funds that could provide additional training money.**

**Travel in connection with non-consecutive ADT:** Per Chapter 3.B.2 of the *Reserve Policy Manual*, non-consecutive active duty is generally only used when the reservist lives close to the duty location (to minimize travel costs) and when the command determines that the nature of the training or duty allows its accomplishment in small increments. If travel allowances are authorized, the member will normally be paid only for a single round trip per set of orders.

In order for a reservist to be paid for multiple trips to the duty site, the additional travel must be authorized by the servicing ISC(pf) and the orders must specify that the non-consecutive nature of the orders is for "convenience of the government, multiple travel is authorized."

At Headquarters, the Office of Reserve Affairs (CG-131) administers several accounts that affect both reservists and the overall effectiveness of the Reserve program:

**IDT drill pay:** The IDT drill pay account, which is budgeted at more than \$36M in FY07, continues to grow as more and more reservists are drilling at or above minimum participation standards. Readiness Management Periods (RMPs) are another form of IDT paid from this account. Due to funding constraints, RMPs for FY07 are authorized only for physical examinations, dental examinations and service wide examinations.

**Reserve educational entitlements and benefits:** Reserve MGIB (Ch. 1606) and the Reserve Educational Assistance

Program (REAP) (Ch. 1607) are for reservists who have been mobilized for a named contingency; there is also Tuition Assistance (TA). Two of these programs — Reserve MGIB and REAP — are entitlements that we must provide by law. In contrast, TA is a Coast Guard sponsored benefit provided voluntarily (not mandated by law) by the Coast Guard. Although TA is a very popular benefit, it is a discretionary expense that should be the last option to fund your education. Why? By law, we must pay into the DoD Educational Benefits Trust Fund — for both Reserve MGIB and REAP — for each eligible reservist even if the entitlement is never used. So, if you are eligible for Reserve MGIB or REAP, and you use TA as your primary source of reimbursement instead, we are paying twice for your education — once to the Trust Fund and then through TA. Therefore, if you are eligible for either of the entitlements, you are required to apply for them before you apply for TA. Although you may file claims for both MGIB/REAP and TA, the total of all educational entitlements and benefits should not exceed the total amount your school bills you for tuition. If we can reduce the demand on the TA account, we will have funds for other requirements and we will be able to continue to optionally fund TA for those who need it.

**Medical-related expenses:** We set aside funds for reservists who are injured or become ill during IDT or while on other Reserve-funded active duty.

**Civilian pay:** We pay the compensation and personnel costs for 97 civilians assigned to commands throughout the Coast Guard in support of the RC, including civilians assigned to CG-131, ISC (pf)s, and CGPC.

**Staff support:** This account funds contracts, ADSW-RC for support to ISCs, MLCs, CGPC (boards and panels), CG-131, and staff travel.

The refund account reimburses the Active Component (AC)

for support it provides to the RC that cannot be paid directly from the RT Appropriation. We transfer the funds at the beginning of the fiscal year based on established equations and accession plan targets; we adjust the amount in late spring/early summer based on actual numbers. The refund account is based upon the principle that each appropriation must fund all costs — including pay, allowances and certain related support costs — generated by its operations. Included in this refund account are:

**Military compensation and personnel costs** for 439 military members assigned to commands, including SPOs, Recruiting Offices, and PSUs, in support of the RC.

**Training center support:** Training centers support the RC (boot camp, REBI, "A" schools and "C" schools) and we provide funding based upon our proportional use of the facilities and the number of training quotas utilized. Providing funding to the training centers ensures we have seats available for reservists.

**Personnel Support Cost Reserve (PSCR):** PSCR is a stipend provided to each command with Reserve Personnel Allowance List (PAL) positions. Calculated at 10 percent of the Personnel Support Cost (PSC) that units receive for their AC personnel, PSCR includes costs such as normal local telephone services, recreation, housekeeping, and routine office equipment.

**Initial Active Duty Training (IADT) orders:** Pay and allowances and travel for reservists attending recruit training and "A" school.

If funds become available toward the end of the fiscal year, we determine the highest Coast Guard-wide priorities for those funds. In FY06, we purchased dry suits for PSUs and boat forces units primarily for reservists assigned to unbudgeted positions. This decision supported the FY06 Reserve Recruiting Initiative.

## CGR Financial Stewardship Pointers

Now that you know more about the money that supports you, it's your turn to help better manage our finite resources so we don't have to reduce support to TA, IDT berthing, or other ongoing programs. Here are a few pointers for being good stewards of Reserve Training funds:

- **Schedule your ADT-AT with your command well in advance (preferably one year) and use it for duties that support competency training.**
- **Coordinate with your command and schedule your IDT for the full year to maximize training opportunities.**
- **Only request Reserve Management Periods (RMPs) for authorized purposes.**
- **Complete your ADT-AT in one two-week period instead of non-consecutively.**
- **Use your government educational entitlements before you apply for Tuition Assistance (TA).**
- **Know your compensation and travel entitlements and help to ensure your reserve orders are prepared correctly before obtaining ISC approval.**
- **If you have to cancel your ADT, remind your unit to promptly cancel your orders in Direct Access and to notify the ISC so that they can de-obligate the funds set aside for your orders.**
- **File your ADT travel claim promptly and accurately. If you were issued a travel TONO and will not be filing a travel claim, you should notify your unit and ask them to notify the appropriate ISC.**





# Reserve Service Wide Exam: How the Process Works

By YN2 Andy Stafford and Mr. Curtis Jones, CGPC-rpm

The objective of the enlisted advancement system is to ensure a required degree of proficiency at the various grade levels within each specialty and advance those best qualified to fill vacancies that occur. Developed by subject matter specialists at Coast Guard training centers, the Reserve Service Wide Examination (RSWE) is the primary means to evaluate a reservist's aptitude and knowledge. The RSWE for E-5 through E-9 is administered once per year and will be held this year on Saturday, Oct. 20.

Before a reservist can compete in the examination, a member must first meet the eligibility criteria and be in compliance with the requirements set forth in the Coast Guard *Personnel Manual* (PERSMAN) and the *Reserve Policy Manual* (RPM) Chapter 7. A member must have all the End of Course Tests (EOCT) and Enlisted Performance Qualifications (EPQs) completed, and Enlisted Evaluation Reviews entered into Direct Access approximately three months prior to the examination date (deadline this year is Sunday, July 1, 2007).

Even if a member meets the eligibility requirements, the commanding officer must recommend the member for advancement.

Approximately two months prior to the examination date, Personnel Data Extracts (PDEs) will be sent to the

unit and the member. The PDE indicates the member's qualification for RSWE participation. Members should review their PDEs for accuracy and submit corrections to their unit "admin" at least one month before the RSWE date. The exact date of the RSWE and corresponding deadlines were announced via ALCGRSV 012/07 (R 191403Z APR 07). This important message contains detailed information for those taking the test.

There are special requirements for members desiring to compete in the RSWE for paygrades E-7, E-8, and E-9. Members must have less than 28 years of service and cannot have reached their 58th birthday as of Jan. 1 following administration of the RSWE. More detailed information on these eligibility requirements can be found in the PERSMAN, Art. 5.C.4.b. and RPM, Chap.7.

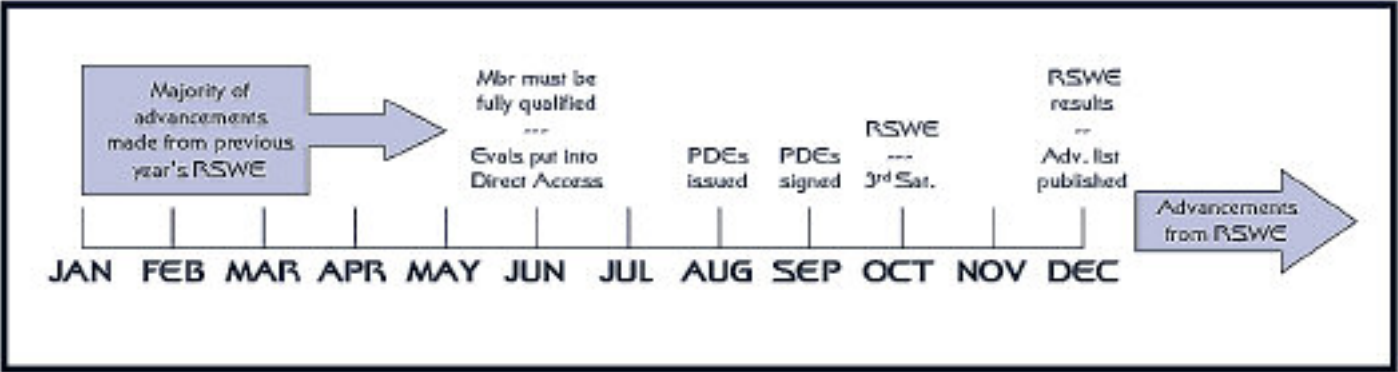
The advancement list is established for each rating, and rates are based upon vacancies anticipated at the time the eligibility list is compiled. Placement on the advancement list is based on the member's final multiple score. This is composed of the member's examination score, performance evaluations, time in service, time in pay grade, medals and awards, and sea duty (please note that according to the *Reserve Policy Manual* (RPM), there are no sea service requirements for Reserve enlisted advancements). The *Reserve Policy Manual*, Section 7.C,

illustrates how a reservist's final multiple will be computed. Personnel Service Center (PSC) Topeka will compute the final multiple, and determine each member's ranking on the advancement list.

The results are then forwarded to Coast Guard Personnel Command, which will publish the final list about two months after the RSWE date. The list will be posted on PSC's web site: [www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/adv.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/adv.htm) (see Advancement Lists; please note that Advancement Lists can only be accessed from CG Intranet, CG Central or CG Web. These lists are not internet release authorized). Once the list is published, advancements are accordingly made and are usually executed at the beginning of each month.

While it cannot be guaranteed that any one person will be advanced, the RSWE ensures a fair and impartial opportunity for advancement for all competitors. Personnel who place below the cutoff point should plan on participating in subsequent RSWEs in order to maintain their eligibility.

Further information on RSWE responsibilities and processes can be found in the Service Wide Examination (SWE) Guide (PSCINST M1418.1b). Statistics for previous RSWEs can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/adv.htm> and clicking on the "Advancement Lists, Cutoffs & Stats" block.



## Ya Gotta Take the Test!

Tests! All the way through life, we take them. They start some time during elementary school and continue into our college years, and beyond. In most cases, we didn't have a choice whether to "take the test." Sure, sometimes there was a choice between a final exam and a final paper, but usually you had no choice. Ya hadda take the test!

That's where duty in the Coast Guard Reserve is really different than civilian life and civilian schooling. Similar to taking correspondence courses, the Reserve Service Wide Exam (RSWE) is voluntary. Sure, your commanding officer can encourage and/or strongly suggest you take the RSWE but no one is mandated to take it – it's a voluntary activity on the part of the individual reservist. Some of us just opt not to bother — but not participating comes at a cost — you can't advance in the Coast Guard Reserve, period!

Yup, ya gotta take the test!

I talked to several officers recently who are former enlisted and they told me some stories about their earlier days in the Coast Guard Reserve. Rule number one is always "take the test." One of the officers told me that he didn't sit for the test in the early 1990s due mostly to

confusion and inaction on his part. He said that he could've taken the test but didn't. As it turned out, it was the year they advanced everyone who "signed their name" to the test. Even if he took the test and did poorly, he would've advanced.

Same advice from the other Reserve officer: TAKE THE TEST! "Every test cycle is different and don't compare how you did on last year's test to the coming year," he said. "Things happen, people advance, lateral, retire. A lot can happen in a year so take the test!"

Now that you've been persuaded to take the test, here are a few study tips to help you get going: Plan ahead, develop a schedule, find a good place to study, keep a notebook, study the right things, study with a friend, and if you don't know something, ask.

On test day, make sure you are well rested, well-fed, arrive early, listen closely to the test administrator and quickly scan the test when you receive it to mentally schedule your answer time.

Good luck and hope to see you on the advancement list for January 2008! But to make that happen, ya gotta take the test!





SLIDELL, La. — MK1 Jarrod Statler, left, of Sector Upper Mississippi River monitors contractors here Friday, Oct. 6, as they load debris left by Hurricane Katrina into a truck. Statler is one of hundreds of Coast Guard members who have been overseeing debris removal for FEMA in southeastern Louisiana since the hurricane.

# THE AFTERMATH

NEARLY TWO YEARS AFTER THE WORST NATURAL DISASTER IN U.S. HISTORY, THE CLEAN UP CONTINUES.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PA2 SUSAN BLAKE, USCGR





SLIDELL, La. — MK2 Jeremy Mitchell of the Atlantic Strike Team works with contractors to contain an oily discharge from an 82-foot vessel as Hurricane Katrina clean-up efforts continue in southeastern Louisiana. The hurricane force winds slammed the former WWII Navy minesweeper into pilings piercing the hull and flooding the lower deck.

*“Although the job has been daunting, it’s also been an incredibly rewarding experience throughout this entire mission. I have been constantly reminded by the people of Louisiana of the vital role that the Coast Guard has played in helping this community rebuild their lives.”*

— CDR Brian R. Lincoln,  
head of the Salvage,  
Wreck and Debris Removal Group.

residents. In one neighborhood, she even had her employees deliver the dinners to the elderly and infirm.

During this past Christmas, Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rouselle attended the Salvage, Wreck and Debris Removal Group’s holiday party. Addressing the crowd, he thanked them for their efforts.

“The majority of people don’t really realize the impact that this group has had in our community ... people have gotten their boats back up [in business] and it hasn’t really kicked in. They’ve been traumatized for a long time,” said Rouselle.

The aftershock of the storm continues here in Louisiana as people discuss rebuilding their lives over coffee, and tourists from all over the world ask them for first-hand accounts of surviving the storm.

“Although the job has been daunting, it’s also been an incredibly rewarding experience throughout this entire mission,” said CDR Brian R. Lincoln, head of the Salvage, Wreck and Debris Removal Group. “I have been constantly reminded by the people of Louisiana of the vital role that the Coast Guard has played in helping this community rebuild their lives.”

Debris removal in southeastern Louisiana has been an enormous endeavor and will continue well into 2007. Aside from Louisiana, debris removal operations are underway all along the Gulf Coast where the job is every bit as huge and challenging and reservists and active duty personnel from all over the country continue to answer the call to assist in this ongoing humanitarian mission.

“Just close your eyes and open them up again and imagine that everything you have is gone in that one instant,” said one local Louisiana man affected by Hurricane Katrina to PSCM Sam Allred, the Command Enlisted Advisor for the Salvage, Wreck and Debris Removal Group headquartered in New Orleans.

It has been well over a year since Hurricane Katrina came through the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005. Soon after the dust settled in late November 2005, the Salvage, Wreck and Debris Removal Group was stood up by a small band of reservists augmented by active duty personnel to oversee salvage operations and debris removal in southeastern Louisiana.

Initially the unit’s salvage teams started removing over 3,500 vessels that blocked waterways throughout the bayous and along tributaries that lead into the Mississippi River and the Gulf.

In late July 2006, debris removal teams headed out along the local waterways to oversee the cleanup of an estimated 80,000 cubic yards of debris. Both the salvage and debris teams have been on the forefront of restoring the economy, lifestyle, and culture of many coastal

communities throughout southeastern Louisiana. Over 65,000 cubic yards of debris have been removed from the once navigable channels used by local boat builders, shrimpers, and fishermen to earn their living.

“We have covered approximately 600 miles of waterways in nine parishes,” said LT Thomas Munoz, Operations Officer of the Salvage, Wreck and Debris Removal Group. “Those parishes are St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, Terrebonne, New Iberia, Vermillion, and Lafourche.”

Local businesses also express their appreciation for the Coast Guard’s work along Louisiana’s coastline. In Port Sulphur, La., Ann’s Restaurant is one of the few eateries capable of serving thousands of workers helping to rebuild that community. The area was hit hard and to many residents, it has been considered ‘ground zero’ for Hurricane Katrina.

“I was always concerned about people having a place to eat,” said Betty Dinette, owner of Ann’s Restaurant. Dinette’s restaurant was the second restaurant to reopen in the area after the storm. Her original restaurant was totally destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

“The Coast Guard and contractors have been great,” said Dinette. “Just about everybody has been patient with our progress.”

Ann’s Restaurant provided over 200 free turkey dinners during Thanksgiving to workers and area



BM3 James Fortin, far right, and MK3 Christopher Hughes order up home cooked meals from Betty Dinette, far left, and Lori Kinney of Ann’s Restaurant in Port Sulphur, La. on Dec. 12, 2006.





# A COASTIE IN BAGHDAD

A FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT OF A COAST GUARD  
RESERVIST'S DEPLOYMENT TO IRAQ.

BY CWO3 GEORGE PAIDOUSIS, USCGR

CWO3 George Paidousis, USCGR,  
right, with Coast Guard LT Robert  
Pirone.





**Ed’s note:** *CWO3 George Paidousis recently returned from Iraq where he was deployed for six months. Upon his return, he was honored at the State of the Coast Guard Address in Washington, D.C. Feb. 13. A native of Steubenville, Ohio, Paidousis has served in the Coast Guard Reserve since 1988. His son, Cpl. Thomas Paidousis, is currently deployed to Iraq with the U.S. Marine Corps. Here is CWO3 Paidousis’ first-person account of his deployment.*

I served as the Special Assistant to the Department of Homeland Security Attaché and Country Director for Iraq at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad from June 15, 2006 through Nov. 4, 2006.

I had the pleasure of working with two Attaché’s during that tour. The first was Mr. James A. Kuiken, a retired Marine and Purple Heart recipient who had served in seven combat zones during his career. On many levels, I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve with him. He made my transition into Iraq a very smooth one. Mr. Kuiken was relieved by Mr. Stephen J. Mangino in early August 2006. Mr. Mangino is a very dynamic and energetic leader. He immediately proceeded to nurture and enhance the Department of Homeland Security’s relationship with the military and the State Department in order to further advance our mission.

My duties as Special Assistant to the DHS Attaché included but were not limited to: providing critical logistical and administrative support for the DHS mission in Iraq, such as travel arrangements into, out of, and within the country for all DHS personnel; acquiring needed supplies for DHS in-country personnel (e.g. vehicles, radios, cell phones, personal protective gear, etc.); securing access to all necessary IT accounts for DHS personnel; and maintaining an inventory on all DHS property in Iraq. In addition, I assisted the DHS Attaché in the following: scheduling meetings, arranging protocol visits, providing counsel and advice on maritime issues, securing transportation and accommodations for the Attaché’s travel and answering phone calls. I also served on two security-related committees.

Embassy Life

At the embassy, everyone lived in trailer communities that surrounded the embassy compound. The trailer communities had names like Poolside and Embassy Estates. There were two laundries on the compound where personnel could drop off their laundry (military uniforms, civilian clothes) to be cleaned and pressed. Also, each community had laundry trailers where personnel could wash their own clothes.

Berthing assignments were determined by rank. E9, W5, or O6-plus were assigned single trailers. All

other ranks had to share a trailer with a roommate. There were two dining facilities (DFAC) on the embassy compound. There was a small DFAC in the embassy located next to the coffee shop and library, where you could get soup and sandwiches. The main DFAC was located on the south end of the compound next to the swimming pool.

And believe it or not, the food was unbelievably good!

To maintain morale, MWR had events such as Karaoke, Country Night, Texas Hold ‘Em, etc., planned for every night of the week. In addition, a different movie played in the embassy theater every night at 2000.

The weekend in Iraq is Friday and Saturday. The Iraqis working at the embassy were off on Friday and Saturday and many, but not all, of the American staff were off or worked reduced hours on the weekend. DHS, however, worked seven days a week, 12-plus hours each day. No one had to get home to the spouse, or go home and cut the grass, or take the kids to their soccer/football game, etc., so working long hours wasn’t so bad. In fact, for me, it was preferred over attending the morale events or sitting in my trailer.

Coast Guard in Iraq?

Upon arrival in Iraq I was queried by virtually every military person I encountered. Common questions were, “Coast Guard, what’s the Coast Guard doing in Iraq? There’s no water here. You’re the first Coastie I’ve seen here.” I would politely explain what I was doing there and would also make them aware that the Coast Guard had cutters serving in the Persian Gulf and also had a unit serving in Bahrain.

About a week after I arrived, I came to find out that there was in fact another Coastie in Baghdad. LT Robert Pirone, an attorney, was serving with the Navy prosecuting insurgents. In fact, his office was right down the hall from mine. I also met several State Department employees who were retired from the Coast Guard or who had previously served in the Coast Guard. I also met a retired Army chief warrant officer who was a Coast Guard Auxiliarist.

A few days before Coast Guard Day I decided to fly a flag over the U.S. Embassy Baghdad in honor of the Coast Guard’s 216<sup>th</sup> birthday. I contacted Mr. David Abell, the Consul General, and asked his permission. He not only gave me his permission, he offered to be the photographer. I contacted LT Pirone and the other Coasties I had met and invited them to attend. I went to the exchange and purchased an embroidered U.S. flag to fly over the embassy. I was pleasantly surprised to see LT Pirone show up with the Coast Guard Ensign and Peter McHugh show up with the Coast Guard Auxiliary Ensign. Also in attendance were prior Coasties Henry Moss and James Norton.

Outside THE Green Zone

I traveled from the Green Zone to Baghdad International Airport often during my tour. Most of my trips were on Blackhawk helicopters. On two separate occasions I made the trip in the Rhino (an up-armored bus). I made one trip into the Red Zone during my tour. The Attaché, an Army colonel, the Consul General and I made a surprise visit to the Baghdad passport office. The trip required a personal security detail to protect the Attaché and his entourage. The trip was relatively uneventful but very enlightening for the entire group but I really can’t go into any detail.

An Army colonel and I inspected the Baghdad Police River Patrol or the “River Rats” as they were affectionately called by U.S. military personnel. These troops received their training in the U.S. and were effective in keeping bridges and the river safe. They regularly took small arms fire from the Red Zone while patrolling the river — I saw the proof on their boats.

During my tour, we took enemy mortar and rocket fire regularly. There were periods when we experienced fire daily for a week or two at a time and other periods when we didn’t experience any fire for several weeks. I would guess that it averaged out at one or two days per week during my tour. We had mortars and rockets land on the compound while I was there but fortunately they were duds. Many hit nearby on several different occasions. Some were so close, in

fact, that they rattled the 2-plus inch thick doors in my office. I heard Improvised Explosive Devices and car bombs explode in the Red Zone regularly. Also, I heard small arms fire and sirens in the Red Zone almost daily.

Serving in a combat zone is dangerous and stressful, especially for the military personnel who were out in the Red Zone on daily patrols. I always made it a point to talk to those young soldiers when I saw them on the embassy compound. Although they were soaking wet from sweat and dog tired from being out in 115-plus degree heat all day in full body armor, they almost always were in good spirits and had a smile when you spoke with them.

An Honor to Serve

I’m thankful I had the opportunity to serve in Iraq and work closely with U.S. military personnel, the coalition forces and State Department personnel. It was an honor to serve with all of them.

I returned to the U.S. in November. It was great to spend the holidays with my family and friends. However, the war is still always in my thoughts. My son, Cpl. Thomas Paidousis, USMC, is currently serving a seven-month tour in Iraq. My wife and I are very proud of him and pray for his safe return. We pray for the end of violence in Iraq so that he and the rest of our military personnel can come home.

LANTAREA Commander Pledges Continued Support Overseas

Story and photo by PA1 Tasha Tully, PADET St. Petersburg

TAMPA, Fla. — Coast Guard VADM D. Brian Peterman, Atlantic Area Commander, visited U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) recently for an operational update on the Coast Guard’s involvement in maritime security operations in the Persian Gulf and in the CENTCOM area of responsibility.



*VADM D. Brian Peterman, Coast Guard Atlantic Area Commander, discusses the Coast Guard’s role overseas with Coast Guard Reserve members at U.S. Central Command headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla.*

Peterman received an overview of Coast Guard operations from several department heads including VADM David Nichols, U.S. Navy, Deputy Commander of U.S. Central Command.

“I don’t think that America understands the key role that the U.S. Coast Guard plays around the world in the Global War on Terrorism,” stated Nichols. “The Coast Guard is heavily involved with maritime security operations in the Persian Gulf. The Coast Guard is making a big difference and we appreciate their support.”

CENTCOM is headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., and is comprised of members from all five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. CENTCOM’s area of responsibility consists of 27 nations including Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. Currently, there are more than 300 Coast Guard members serving in theater aboard seven Coast Guard cutters.

“Today’s visit was great,” said Peterman. “The Coast Guard is proud to support the Global War on Terrorism and we’ll continue to do so in the future.”



# A Letter from Iraq

**Ed's note:** *IT1 Jay Feimster, USCGR, is a civilian employee with the U.S. Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He is the Division Security Manager for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, and was tasked with creating the security program for Multi-National Force West, Iraq. In late January, he deployed to Fallujah, Iraq to assist in setting up the program and take part in the transfer of authority from the unit in place. He is still serving in the Coast Guard Reserve and thought our readers would find it interesting that a Coastie is serving in Iraq as part of his civilian job. What follows is a recent report from Feimster while in Iraq.*

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Feb. 17, 2007, 7:17 AM

Hello Everyone,

Things are going well here in Iraq. Multi-National Force West / II Marine Expeditionary Force Forward is finally settled in and working as a command. We have been putting in a lot of hours to work out the kinks. It is still amazing to see how this all comes together and it is neat to see all the different branches work together. I reminded Gen. Gaskin the other night that I was still in the Coast Guard Reserve so we have every service represented here at Camp Fallujah. He laughed and said, "Oh that's right, we have a Coastie."

Some of our guys are working with the Military Transition Teams. They go outside the wire with the Iraqi Army to supervise, assist and train these teams while in combat. For the most part, they let the Iraqi Army/Iraqi Police complete whatever mission they have and our guys provide guidance and feedback. They stay really busy and play a major role in helping the Iraqi Army take back control of the area. If some of you would like to check out our public Web site, the address is [www.iimefpublic.usmc.mil/forward](http://www.iimefpublic.usmc.mil/forward).

As far as life here at the camp, things have been good. Last night and this morning, we had a few incoming and outgoing mortar rounds, but everything seems to be fine.

Here on base they have what is called the Turkish Bazaar that the locals run. It consists of a tailor shop, barbershop and a main store that sells tailored suits, rugs, jewelry and just about anything else you could want. It is kind of weird to have it in a combat zone but I don't ask questions.

Well, I went to go get a haircut and, oh boy, what an adventure. I walked in and this gentleman was cutting a customer's hair. Pretty much all you can get is a high and tight no matter what you want. When it came time to trim up his neck, the gentlemen stepped back, took what looked like a cotton swab out, lit it on fire (yes on fire) and proceeded to burn his ear hair. Well, after the impressive show with pyrotechnics, I decided against getting a haircut. I am not sure if I need my ears burned. I still laugh about it — if only you could see my face when he started to "burn" this guy's ear hair.

— Mr. John "Jay" Feimster (IT1, USCGR)  
Camp Fallujah, Iraq



**IT1 John "Jay" Feimster, USCGR, wears the Marine Corps combat utility uniform while working as a civilian in Iraq.**



*Celebrating Coast Guard Day in Baghdad are Coasties left to right: Peter McHugh, Henry Moss, LT Robert Pirone, James Norton and CWO3 George Paidousis.*





# In Brief

• **PSC CUSTOMER CARE CALL CENTER** — The Customer Care Call Center at PSC Topeka is staffed two weekends per month, except during the all-hands in October and April, to assist and answer questions regarding password resets, pay, travel, and user support. Phone support hours of operation for these weekends are 0730-1600 Central Time. The weekend schedule for the remainder of FY07 is as follows: June 9-10, 16-17; July 14-15, 21-22; Aug. 11-12, 18-19; Sept. 8-9, 15-16. There are three ways to contact PSC. Phone: 785-339-2200 or 1-866-772-8724; E-mail: PSC-CustomerCare@uscg.mil; Web: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/customerservice.shtm> (complete the online form). For retired pay issues, please continue to call 1-800-772-8724 or 785-339-3415.



• **COAST GUARD OFFICER EAGLE RINGS** — The eagle ring is fashioned after a historic symbol from the officer's cap, with the eagle standing tall perched on a single horizontal anchor. This eagle ring icon of the United States Coast Guard is solid, heavy in weight, and extremely detailed. These rings are custom-made and take two to three weeks from the time the order is received. For more info, see [www.eaglerings.com](http://www.eaglerings.com) or call 1-888-512-1333. *(The U.S. Coast Guard does not endorse this product; this is published as a service to our readers).*



• **COAST GUARD RESERVE RACE CAR** — Kevin Harvick, driver of the No. 21 Chevrolet in the Busch Series®, sported a new Coast Guard Reserve paint scheme at the Richmond race in September 2006 featuring a black base and waves of red (see Reservist, Issue 5-06, Pages 6-7). Celebrate his amazing season and second weekend sweep with this limited edition 1:24 scale die-cast win raced version, created with all post-race marks. The car is approximately \$64.95. To order, contact Richard Childress Racing, 425 Industrial Drive, Welcome, NC 27374, or via phone 336-731-3334 (ask for gift shop) or via Web: [www.rcrstore.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=622&idCategory=30](http://www.rcrstore.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=622&idCategory=30) *(The U.S. Coast Guard does not endorse this product; this is published as a service to our readers).*



• **MILITARY HANDBOOKS** — The United States Military Handbook is designed to help all U.S. military personnel by giving them the most accurate and thorough information available on pay, allowances, taxes, health care and TRICARE benefits, Veterans and Social Security benefits, travel, transportation,

Survivor's Benefit Plan (SBP), retirement, etc. Copies of the 2007 Military Handbooks are available by sending e-mail to [info@militaryhandbooks.com](mailto:info@militaryhandbooks.com). On the web, visit: [www.militaryhandbooks.com](http://www.militaryhandbooks.com). *(The U.S. Coast Guard does not endorse this product; this is published as a service to our readers).*

• **CGC WHITE ALDER MEMORIAL SERVICE** — Dec. 7, 2008, will mark the 40th anniversary of the CGC WHITE ALDER tragedy (it collided with the Formosan freighter Helena and 17 of the 21 crew were lost in the Mississippi). MSU Baton Rouge, La. would like to host a memorial service and needs to locate all families of the 21 crew aboard CGC WHITE ALDER. If you have any info, please contact MST3 Robert F. Feus, Jr. 225-298-5400, ext 227, [Robert.F.Feus@uscg.mil](mailto:Robert.F.Feus@uscg.mil) or MSTC Matthew Valenti, 225-298-5400, ext. 235, [Matthew.J.Valenti@uscg.mil](mailto:Matthew.J.Valenti@uscg.mil), or write Commanding Officer, MSU Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

• **RESERVE CPO ACADEMY** — This two-week academy, located at TRACEN Petaluma, Calif., is highly recommended for Coast Guard Reserve senior enlisted personnel. E7, E8, and E9 may attend. For all CPOs advanced after Jan. 1, 1999, it's a professional requirement for advancement to E8. For more info, visit the Web site: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/tcpet/cpoa/index.shtm>

• **TRICARE RESERVE SELECT GOES ONE RATE FOR FY08:** A proposed policy will create a new Tricare Reserve Select TRS one-rate plan replacing the current three-tier system. The future program rates are equivalent to 28 percent of the maximum monthly premium (equivalent to the current Tier 1 rates.) The program is slated to be available for purchase this summer for coverage starting in October. All drilling SELRES members are eligible who do not qualify for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB). Keep checking the CGR Web site and *The Reservist* for the latest information.

• **NERA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:** The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) offers a college scholarship program for members of the Sea Services, including the Coast Guard Reserve. The 2007 Scholarship application deadline is Friday, June 15, 2007. For info, contact NERA, 6703 Farragut Ave., Falls Church, VA 22042-2189, 1-800-776-9020, 703-534-1329, E-mail: [members@nera.org](mailto:members@nera.org). Web: [www.nera.org](http://www.nera.org)

## Reunions / Retirements

### JUNE 2007

• **RETIREMENT CEREMONY FOR PAC TOM STAATS** — Saturday, June 30, 11:15 a.m. at Coast Guard Station Shinnecock, Hampton Bays, N.Y. Anyone interested in attending contact Chief Staats via e-mail at: [tastaats@optonline.net](mailto:tastaats@optonline.net) no later than June 14. Please indicate number of people attending in your party.

### SEPTEMBER 2007

• **SANDY HOOK, N.J. RESERVE REUNION** — All reservists that served at Sandy Hook Station or Group Sandy Hook units, Shark River, Manasquan, Barnegat, Beach Haven are invited, Saturday, Sept. 8, 2007, Community Center at Sandy Hook Station, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For info and reservations, contact Tony Bernice, [abdb232@yahoo.com](mailto:abdb232@yahoo.com).

• **WESTWIND ASSOCIATION** — Fourth reunion, Sept. 9-11, 2007, Bally's Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ. Cost is \$115 per night plus tax. For more info, contact Alex Mavica, 845-352-7040, [amavica@optonline.net](mailto:amavica@optonline.net).

• **USCGC CAMPBELL W-32 & W-909** — Sept. 10-14, 2007, 22nd annual reunion, Best Western Merry Manor Inn, South Portland, ME 04106. For hotel reservations, call: 207-774-6151 (rates are \$79/night single or double). Cut off date for rate is Aug. 12, 2007. Reunion fee is \$170 per person. For more info, contact Gordon Bell, Vice President, 723 Spring Lane, Lansdale, PA 19446, 215-393-6195, [CaptBell@comcast.net](mailto:CaptBell@comcast.net) or Jim Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer, 40 Lisa Lane, Uncasville, CT 06382, 860-848-1160, [jkelly3@earthlink.net](mailto:jkelly3@earthlink.net). Web site: [www.campbellw32w909.org](http://www.campbellw32w909.org)

• **COOS BAY REUNION ASSOCIATION** — Sept. 12-16, 2007, Providence, R.I., 15th annual reunion of crew members and friends of the COOS BAY. For more info, contact: Bill Hardy, President, 7036 Valley St., Port Sheldon, MI 49460, 616-738-0765, [hardyb643@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hardyb643@sbcglobal.net)

• **NORTH COAST NEW YORK COAST GUARD ASSOCIATION** — Sept. 14-16, Sackets Harbor, N.Y. Seeking any Coastie who served at Erie, Pa. Lifeboat Station, Buffalo Base, Fort Niagara LBS, Rochester LBS, Sodus Point (AUX OP), Oswego LBS, Big Sandy Life Saving Station, Galloo Island LBS, Sackets Harbor (AUX OP), Cape Vincent Light Station, Station Clayton, CG Station Alexandria Bay, MSD Massena, Burlington Base, Vt., ATON Saugerties, Reserve Unit (PSU) Buffalo/Syracuse, LORAN Station Seneca, any lighthouse, small unit or CG cutter that was home ported or worked in the above area. Any year, regular, reserve, auxiliary and civilian. Contact North Coast New York Coast Guard Association, 4712 Glenwood Drive, Mantua, OH 44255, 330-274-2927, [skipper444@aol.com](mailto:skipper444@aol.com)

## Upcoming Events

### JUNE 2007

• **COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BIRTHDAY** — It's number 68 for the all-volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary on Saturday, June 23. Each year, auxiliarists volunteer more than two million hours benefiting boaters. Auxiliary Web site: [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org).

• **ROA NATIONAL CONVENTION** — June 26-30, San Francisco Marriott, San Francisco. The Junior Officer Leadership Development Training Seminar will also be held in conjunction with the convention. Contact Col. Tom Obenland, USAF(Ret.), 360-895-2720, [obenland@earthlink.net](mailto:obenland@earthlink.net), Web: [www.roa.org](http://www.roa.org).

### JULY 2007

• **U.S. COAST GUARD FESTIVAL** — July 27-Aug. 5, in Grand Haven Mich., Coast Guard City USA! Parade and fireworks are on Coast Guard Day, Aug. 4. For info, contact: U.S. Coast Guard Festival, 113 N. Second St., Grand Haven, MI 49417, 1-888-207-2434, [contact@ghcgfest.org](mailto:contact@ghcgfest.org), Web: [www.ghcgfest.org](http://www.ghcgfest.org).

### AUGUST 2007

• **COAST GUARD DAY** — Is Saturday, Aug. 4th! What is your unit planning to commemorate the Coast Guard's 217th birthday?

• **D14 COAST GUARD BALL** — Saturday, Aug. 4, Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, Waikiki, Hawaii. Contact LT Kenneth Cutler, 808-842-2884, [k.c.cutler@uscg.mil](mailto:k.c.cutler@uscg.mil), Web: [www.d14cgball.com](http://www.d14cgball.com).

### SEPTEMBER 2007

• **39TH ANNUAL USCG CPO ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION** — Sept. 10-14, at the New Frontier Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nev. For info, contact convention chairman ATC Dick Wells, 33992 South Whiskey Creek Road, Cookson, OK 74427, 918-457-3463, [cpoconv@aol.com](mailto:cpoconv@aol.com)


• **TWIN CITIES JOINT MILITARY SERVICES RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY** — Saturday, Sept. 29, Mystic Lake Casino, 2400 Mystic Lake Road, Prior Lake, MN 55372. Advance registration is required by Aug. 31, 2007. For information, call 1-800-231-3517 or 612-713-1516, 612-727-2854 or write: Retiree Activities Office, Navy & Marine Corps Reserve Center, 6400 Bloomington Road, Fort Snelling, St. Paul, MN 55111.

### OCTOBER 2007

• **DUNK FAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT** — The third annual basketball tournament in memory of USCG Petty Officer Brian Colletti is set for Saturday, Oct. 6, at Northwood Temple Academy gymnasium, Fayetteville, N.C. More than \$10,000 has been raised for scholarships during the past two tournaments and last year's scholarship went to two children whose father was deployed to Iraq. For more info, contact Lynda Simmons, 572 Andover Road, Fayetteville, NC 28311, 910-488-0476, [lsimmons@nc.rr.com](mailto:lsimmons@nc.rr.com), Web: [www.brian-eddie-colletti.virtual-memorials.com](http://www.brian-eddie-colletti.virtual-memorials.com)

• **RESERVE SERVICE WIDE EXAMINATION** — Mark your calendar if you're planning to take the test. This year's date is Saturday, Oct. 20. Deadline for paperwork (EOCTs, EPQs, marks, etc.) is July 1, 2007. For more info, see articles in this issue about the RSWE (Page 24-25) and ALCGRSV 012/07.

• **2007 USCG INNOVATION EXPO** — Oct. 28-Nov. 1, in New Orleans. For info, contact Mr. Fred Hooghouse, Commandant (CG-0931), 202-372-4579, [Frederick.l.hooghouse@uscg.mil](mailto:Frederick.l.hooghouse@uscg.mil), Web: [www.uscg.mil/innovation/](http://www.uscg.mil/innovation/).



We can always use your help with The Reservist! If you have a story, a photo or an idea to make the magazine better, we want to hear from you.

Send submissions and ideas to:

**TheReservist@uscg.mil**

It s your magazine and here is your chance to



Advancements

Reserve Enlisted Advancements effective March 1, 2007 from Enlisted Reserve Advancement Announcement (ERAA) No. 003-7, ALCGRSV 006/07 (R 221510Z FEB 07)

Boatswain's Mate (BM)

BM1 B J CLINE  
BM1 F S WIENKER  
BM1 G G DELMENDO  
BM1 E R GREBE  
BM1 B K DIXON  
BM1 K M DOZEMAN  
BM1 M A BIANCA  
BM1 C R LOCKWOOD  
BM2 T V BRUCE  
BM2 R L BERNHARDT  
BM2 T E GONZAGA  
BM2 D S TILLMAN  
BM2 J M POINTS  
BM2 R E WOLFGANG

Investigator (IV)

IV1 D J LEGAULT  
IV2 R W MOSS

Machinery Technician (MK)

MKCM C W WOOD  
MKC R A HODGES  
MKC P D BOURQUE

MK1 C M DEAN  
MK2 M A ADAMCHAK  
MK2 E T WILLIAMSON  
MK2 F J CAPOBIANCO  
MK2 J M WATKINS  
MK2 W D BRENNAN  
MK2 M R OREILLY

Marine Science Technician (MST)

MSTC D K SHORES  
MST1 C A FOX  
MST2 J T LIVINGSTON

Operations Specialist (OS)

OS2 J C DELLAROSA

Port Security Specialist (PS)

PS1 T E WILLIS

Storekeeper (SK)

SKC R T WILSON  
SK1 A P MARTINEZ  
SK3 C J BENTLEY

Yeoman (YN)

YN1 M D MUELLER

Reserve Enlisted Advancements effective April 1, 2007 from Enlisted Reserve Advancement Announcement (ERAA) No. 04-07, ALCGRSV 009/07 (R 211340Z MAR 07)

Boatswain's Mate (BM)

BMCM G M KMETTY  
BMCS W J PRINCIOTTA  
BMCS P GARGAGLIANO  
BMC D B UNDERHILL  
BMC J W WHEELER  
BM1 R W KENNISH  
BM1 S M COURTIER  
BM2 S E PARA  
BM2 G J LAWRENCE  
BM3 C J BENTLEY

Food Service Specialist (FS)

FS2 J E SCHROEDER  
FS3 J A ULRICH

Gunner's Mate (GM)

GM1 J J BURKHARDT  
GM2 K D ERTLER

Investigator (IV)

IV1 C CRUZ  
IV2 M M WALTMAN

Machinery Technician (MK)

MKCM J M ANTEN  
MKCS R A PAYNE  
MKCS R A TAYLOR  
MKC J L STABLEY  
MK1 J J OTT  
MK1 E D GADBOIS  
MK1 M K HENCKLER  
MK1 K M KENNEDY  
MK1 R L MCMULLEN  
MK2 J M BOVENZI  
MK2 P M LACEY

Marine Science Technician (MST)

MSTC V L RACHAL  
MST1 A B LIGHTBODY  
MST2 A J KNIGHT

Storekeeper (SK)

SK1 W D BOSSA

Yeoman (YN)

YNCM G E OWENS  
YN1 A R DIX

Questions should be directed to YNC Rony Harden, 785-339-3410, rony.harden@uscg.mil.

Of Note...

• Coast Guard Reservist **CDR Martha LaGuardia-Kotite** received second place in the “Boating Adventures” category for “Hurricane Baby” from the book *So Others May Live — Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers: Saving Lives, Defying Death*, (reviewed in *The Reservist*, Issue 4-06, Page 32). LaGuardia-Kotite won \$300 and a recognition plaque noting “excellence in creating compelling stories about entertaining, educational and inspiring journalism.” Her work will now move into a “Phase II” competition next fall that culminates with the West Marine Writer’s Award. The award, sponsored by Boating Writers International, was presented Feb. 16, 2007. BWI is a non-profit professional organization consisting of writers, broadcasters, editors, publishers, photographers, public relations specialists and others in the communications profession associated with the boating industry.

• **BM2 Travis R. Williams**, USCG, of TACLET South and **LCDR Keith N. Johnson**, USCGR, of PSU 305 are the recipients of the Department of Defense’s 2007 African-American History Month Recognition Award. Both Johnson and Williams distinguished themselves in support of the Global War on Terrorism, consistently displaying exemplary professional competence, leadership skills and Coast Guard core values. They were recognized along with other DOD service members at a luncheon held Feb. 21 at Hampton University in Hampton, Va. For more information, see ALCOAST 084/07.



Photo by CWO3 Edward J. Kruska

**RADM Cliff Pearson, right, pins a Coast Guard Commendation Medal on LT Richard Lavigne at a Headquarters All Hands. Lavigne, now an RPA serving at Headquarters’ Office of Reserve Affairs, was presented with the award for his service during Hurricane Katrina operations.**

BMC Robert Scott, *IRVMC*  
PSC Charles Gillespie, *IRVMC*  
PSC Gregory Huber, *IRVMC*  
PSC Michael Reynolds, *IRVMC*  
BM1 Allan Monterroza, *IRVMC*  
MST1 Luther Prather, *IRVMC*  
SK1 Terry Jelcick, *PSU 312*

Army Achievement Medal

CWO2 W. Scott Gardner, *RAID Team 5*

Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon

ENS John C. Vonk, *Sector Seattle*  
BMCM James Cunningham, *IRVMC*  
MK1 Jarrod Statler, *IRVMC*  
SK2 George Carich, *IRVMC*  
YN2 Michael Lorah, *IRVMC*

Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation

Sector San Fran Reserve Readiness & Ldrship. Team

Reserve Good Conduct Medal

IV1 James Nanos, *CGIS Cape May (1<sup>st</sup>)*

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

CWO2 W. Scott Gardner, *RAID Team 5 (3<sup>rd</sup>)*

Armed Forces Service Medal

CDR Douglas W. Heugel, *LANTAREA*  
ENS John C. Vonk, *Sector Seattle*

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

CDR Douglas W. Heugel, *LANTAREA*  
LCDR Charles A. Spitz, *Wall, N.J.*

Sector San Fran Semi-Annual Reservist of the Year

YN1 Thomas Elliott



Photo by EM3 Robinson, USCGR

**YN1 Thomas Elliott, right, receives a certificate from CAPT William Uberti of Sector San Francisco for being selected the Sector’s Semi-Annual Reservist of the Year Oct. 14.**

Medals and Awards

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

CDR Larry L. Jones, *U.S. Southern Command*

Meritorious Service Medal

CDR Michael B. Bee, *LANTAREA*  
CDR Douglas Heugel, *LANTAREA*  
CDR Kenneth Hines, *IRVMC*  
CDR Stephen Nye, *Commandant(CG-131)*  
SKCS Sandra J. Fletcher, *LANTAREA*  
YNC Penny Collins, *CGHQ*

Joint Service Commendation Medal

CWO4 Thomas H. Kelly, III, *SSS/JSD 1PA*

Coast Guard Commendation Medal

CAPT James Montgomery, *Commandant(CG-1B1)*  
CDR Robert Cunningham, *CGRU USTRANSOM*  
CDR Douglas W. Heugel, *LANTAREA*

LT Rich Lavigne, *Commandant(CG-131)*  
BMCM James Hancock, *IRVMC*

MKCM Roger L. Grinnell, *Sector SE New England*  
ITC John Williams, *IRVMC*  
IT1 Jeff Paris, *IRVMC*

Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal

SK1 Terry Jelcick, *NCW Group One*

Army Commendation Medal

LTJG Todd Remusat, *D7*  
MST1 Brandon Westbrook  
MST1 John Cynkar, *Sector N.Y.*  
PS1 Thomas Walker  
PS1 Matthew M. Rouse, *Sector Jacksonville*

Joint Service Achievement Medal

PS3 Richard Jones, PSU 305\*  
\* Named *JTF GTMO Junior Service Member of the Quarter*



Photo by LT Scott Wolland, USCGR

**RDML Brian Salerno, Director of Inspections and Compliance at Coast Guard Headquarters, left, presents the Meritorious Service Medal to YNC Penny Collins, USCGR, for her work as national program manager of “America’s Waterway Watch.”**

MK1 Sheldon Harley, PSU 305\*\*  
\*\* Named *JTF GTMO NCO/Petty Officer of the Quarter*

Coast Guard Achievement Medal

LT Kevin Werthmuller, *IRVMC*  
MSTCS James M. Edwards, *Sector San Fran*



RET-1  
(Retired With Pay)

JANUARY 2007

CAPT Joseph H. Langjahr  
CAPT Roderick L. Powell  
CDR Peter S. Heins  
CDR David L. Hohlfeldt  
CDR Walter F. Williams  
LCDR Dolphin D. Hamilton III  
CWO4 John P. Deyeso  
CWO4 John J. Frackleton  
CWO4 Martin J. Grozinski Jr.  
CWO4 Daniel B. Holder  
CWO3 Alan W. Kallmann  
PSCM Victor B. Hanna  
DCCS James M. McNamara  
IVCS Edward Kirkland  
BMC Dennis J. Avery  
BMC Alfred F. Bell  
ETC Robert E. Vollrath Jr.  
IVC Frederick A. Tredy  
MSTC Timothy C. Hubbel  
PSC Henry M. Falgoust  
BM1 Robert V. Sessions  
EM1 Michael P. Young  
IV1 Rodney K. Steckel  
MK1 Jarge Castillo  
MK1 Peter P. Clark  
MK1 Duane W. Gale  
MK1 Emil A. Rusca  
MK1 J.R. Webber  
PS1 Arthur R. Cervantes  
PS1 Richard M. Duillo  
PS1 Alvin R. Harrell  
PS1 Raymond O. Kittila  
PS1 James R. Sullivan  
PS1 Judy L. Tredy  
BM2 Gerald A. Balzano



YNC Frederick Labib-Wood, right, receives a retirement certificate from Commodore Scott B. Jarabek, Commander, Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron 30, at his retirement ceremony held at Sector San Diego, Dec. 14, 2006.



VADM D. Brian Peterman, Commander, Atlantic Area, right, presents a retirement certificate to CWO4 Donald F. Allen, USCGR, at a ceremony at Atlantic Area Headquarters, Portsmouth, Va. Feb. 9, 2007. Allen served 41 years in the Coast Guard and Reserve with his final assignment as School Chief of PS "A" School in Yorktown, Va.

BM2 Bruce W. Bradley  
BM2 Arthur T. Jinnett  
DC2 John L. Kirkland  
EM2 Charles R. Navarro  
FT2 James F. Allison  
SK2 Arthur D. Haggerty

FEBRUARY 2007

CAPT William D. Huston  
CAPT Ivan R. Krissel  
CAPT Charles W. More  
CDR Arthur A. Davis  
CDR Ronald J. Friedman  
CDR James C. Helfrich  
CDR Paul W. Rabuck  
CDR Vincent J. Spagnolo  
CDR Paul H. Walle  
LCDR Alan C. Carver  
LCDR Robert E. Lancaster  
LCDR George E. McCormack Jr.  
LCDR Wayne C. Meunier  
LCDR William F. Mueller  
LCDR James E. Sohns  
LCDR Howard C. Waters  
LCDR Edward E. Wheelis  
LT Donald E. Winne  
CWO4 Stephen R. Bell  
CWO4 Taylor C. Berry  
CWO4 Thomas E. Domich  
AETCM Robert C. Pear  
EMCS Charles J. Pomaski

RET-2  
(Retired Awaiting Pay)

JANUARY 2007

CAPT Mark R. Trammell  
CDR Karen E. Lloyd  
LCDR Cassie H. Calametti  
LCDR James C. Curry  
LCDR Kurt B. Jahnke  
LCDR Wayne M. Lundy

MKCS Bromley G. Ball  
MKCS Willis A. Cannon  
PSCS Donald J. McKinnon  
BMC Charles L. Roberson  
EMC Phillip C. Parsons  
ITC Dennis W. Tharp  
MKC Glynn J. Hernandez  
MSTC Joseph D. Westbrook  
PSC Thomas A. Wallace  
PSC Robert H. Wister  
MSTC Richard J. Seibel  
BM1 William M. Bruce  
BM1 Lois A. Robichaud  
ET1 Tim E. Morlok  
MK1 Charles M. Franz  
MK1 Ronald L. Taylor  
PA1 Spring DeHaviland  
YN1 Robert E. Pigg  
EM2 Donato J. Cannella  
EM3 Jack M. Weidner

LT Robert D. Hunt  
BMCS David L. Strader  
FSC Douglas W. Linebarger  
MKC Conway L. Cruickshank  
ET1 Carl W. Struss  
YN1 Raymond A. Kaforey  
BM2 William E. Luyster  
MST2 Timothy W. Lene

FEBRUARY 2007

CAPT Mark S. Zecca  
CDR James M. Duckworth II  
CDR Jeffrey D. Irino  
LCDR Reuben M. Gonzales  
LCDR Jeffrey G. O'Connell  
MKCM Peter M. Hutton  
IVCS Charles W. Davis  
BMC Lester S. Bellerive

MKC Gerald E. Barrett  
MKC David W. McCormick  
MSTC Gregory T. Guy  
SKC Leonard Abbadini  
SKC Laurence P. Glynn  
YNC Terry L. Ridenour  
IT1 Gary M. Colligan  
MK1 Jesse W. Flincham Jr.  
PS1 Stephen G. Chan  
PS1 Timothy D. Hustead  
SK1 Noel J. Kier  
AMT2 Mark D. Wilcox  
BM2 Roderick C. Jones  
BM2 David L. Linder

Source: Ms. Linda Frank,  
Personnel Service Center (RAS)



EMC Phillip Parsons speaks to those in attendance at his retirement ceremony in the hangar of Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City, N.J. Jan. 13, 2007. The ceremony marked the end of 40 years of military service in the Navy, Naval Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve.

Taps

• **SN Raymond O'Malley**, 87, March 8, 2007, in Chicago, Ill. He was a World War II Coast Guard veteran and one of only two survivors of the CGC ESCANABA (WPG-77) which was torpedoed and sank in the North Atlantic June 13, 1943. That August and every year since, O'Malley attended the Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, Mich. to lay a wreath at the National Memorial Service to pay tribute to his ESCANABA shipmates. In addition to his service in the Coast Guard, he served in the Chicago Police Department. He is survived by his wife, Dolly; son, Peter; grandson, Michael. Funeral arrangements pending with interment service scheduled for June 13, 2007 — the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of CGC ESCANABA. For more info, see ADM Allen's All Hands message, R 091930Z MAR 07.



• **CAPT Catherine A. Bennett, USCGR(Ret.)**, Dec. 21, 2006, in Wilmington, N.C. She is survived by her spouse, CAPT William C. Bennett. Interment Sylvania, Ga.

• **CAPT Holmes F. Crouch, USCGR(Ret.)**, Feb. 25, 2007, in San Jose, Calif. He is survived by his spouse, Irma Crouch. Interment Saratoga, Calif.

• **CDR David S. Bushnell, USCGR(Ret.)**, March 2, 2007, in Malvern, Pa. He is survived by his spouse, Jean Bushnell; a daughter, Lorna Davis.

• **LT Joseph R. Ostdiek, USCGR**, March 9, 2007. He is survived by his parents, Robert and Janet Ostdiek. Funeral services were held March 14, 2007, at St. Patrick Church, Gretna, Neb. Interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna, Neb.

• **MSTC Archie R. Pugh, USCGR(Ret.)**, Feb. 27, 2007, in Norfolk, Va. He is survived by his spouse, Audrey Pugh. Interment Norfolk, Va.

• **YNC Jesse A. Rawley, USCGR(Ret.)**, Feb. 20, 2007, in Pensacola, Fla. He is survived by his spouse, Patricia Rawley.



# The Coast Guard Seal and Emblem



The creation of an official Coast Guard seal confirmed the existence of a symbol that had evolved over the decades. The Revenue Cutter Service, the Life-Saving Service, and the Lighthouse Service all had their own unique distinguishing devices. The Bureau of Marine Inspections and Navigation used drawings of ships and marine equipment on licenses and stationery. But it wasn't until 1927, after Treasury Secretary Andrew W. Mellon approved a design, that the Coast Guard had its first official seal/emblem. At that time, the seal and emblem were the same. It was designed by civilian Coast Guard draftsman Oscar H. Kee.

Over the years, the seal and emblem became two different devices. The emblem, a simplification of the seal, began to appear throughout the service. Consequently, in 1957, Assistant Treasury Secretary David W. Kendall signed an order prescribing the distinctive emblem of the Coast Guard. This order specified that the emblem be

used on the Coast Guard ensign, but did not indicate any additional use.

Apparently, the emblem continued in wide use. In 1967, Commandant Instruction 5030.6 defined the use of the Coast Guard seal and the Coast Guard emblem.

The seal is used for official documents and records of the Coast Guard. It may also be used for jewelry, stationery, etc., at the discretion of the commandant. The official seal is also used on invitations, programs, certificates, diplomas, and greetings.

The Coast Guard emblem, a simplified version of the seal, was created as a visual identifier for the Coast Guard. It not only appears on the Coast Guard ensign, but also inside the distinctive slash on the sides of our cutters, craft, aircraft, and at our units. It is also used on medals and plaques where space is limited.

— Source *The Coast Guardsman's Manual*, Ninth Edition, Page 81.

# Preparing Now For Future Changes

Greetings from Atlantic Area! As I write this article, the Coast Guard is undertaking a transformation unlike any in recent service history. From the stand up of the Deployable Operations Group to the review and realignment of logistical capabilities, the Coast Guard may not look the same in the next year or so. In order to meet organizational goals and strategies, change must be effectively led and managed while continuing with mission execution.

Without such leadership at all levels within an organization, change tends to present significant challenges. I have worked with organizations that viewed change as an event. Once management declared the change complete, everyone took a deep breath, relaxed, and ultimately resorted to the familiar practices that were in place prior to the change, only to find that these did not mesh well with new processes and initiatives. Personal experience tells me that change should not be viewed as an event, but a process to be sustained long into the future and continuously improved.

Maintaining your readiness and being part of a Ready, Reliable and Relevant component should remain at the forefront. What can you do to anticipate the coming changes and to prepare your men and women? Each member should routinely review their administrative readiness and currency of qualifications. Is your personal information up to date in Direct Access? Is your completion of training accurately reflected in the Training Management Tool (TMT)? Do you have a current physical and dental examination on record? Are you current on required competencies? Are your marks current?

If not, what steps have you personally taken to ensure these actions are accomplished or appropriately reported? Most of the feedback I receive during my travels reflect gaps in reporting of member and unit readiness. Upon digging deeper, what I find is not a failure to complete the requirement, but a failure to complete the required steps to record the data or training. One example is the Individual Development Plan (IDP). Once the IDP is created and the counseling session occurs, it must be recorded in TMT to complete the process until the next required update is due. This simple process greatly enhances a unit's readiness reporting.

How familiar are you and your chain of command with current Coast Guard policies and procedures? If your chain of

command is not consistently reviewing and using existing guidance on personnel and administrative requirements, something can go unnoticed, unreported or worse. I encourage each leader to familiarize themselves with the Personnel Manual (CIM1000.6A), the Reserve Policy Manual (CIM1001.28A) and the Standardization of Force Optimization and Training Processes (MLCLANT/PACINST1300.2). You may be surprised at the wealth of information contained within these three manuals and the time it will save not having to resubmit personnel or administrative requests and actions that were poorly formatted or out-of-date.

From time to time I hear that there is a perception the Reserve program is not always represented when making service wide decisions or changes. Again, I ask, what are you prepared to do to make your voice heard? Throughout the year there are solicitations for membership on panels, participation in working groups, or leadership billets specifically targeted for reservists. Here's your opportunity to ensure the service is aware of the impact of decisions on the total workforce. Participation in these groups or panels not only makes the needs and concerns of the Reserve workforce known, but it is an excellent professional development opportunity. If you have the flexibility to commit to leadership billets, it is well worth the time and investment.

In summary, the more you remain prepared, the easier it will be when integrating changes — and this is really nothing different than normal readiness requirements. Few reporting systems in use today are perfect. Policies and procedures are not always flawless and should be constantly reviewed, updated and improved. However, if the latest tools are not used, existing gaps or imperfections may not be discovered and corrected. If you come across issues or conflicts with policies, guidance, or resource management systems, ensure that it is reported through appropriate channels. Invest time to participate in local or Coast Guard wide studies, panels, and working groups. As you advance in your career, seek opportunities to serve in leadership billets.

Each recommendation listed is critical to effective organizational transformation and sustainment of existing and new processes. Help your chain of command help you. Take personal responsibility for your people's and your readiness, and for the future of the Coast Guard Reserve.

Semper Paratus!



By  
MCPO Dennis E. Kirk,  
USCGR

Reserve  
Command Master Chief,  
LANTAREA

Dennis.E.Kirk@uscg.mil

**“Maintaining your readiness and being part of a Ready, Reliable and Relevant component should remain at the forefront.**

**What can you do to anticipate the coming changes and to prepare your men and women?”**

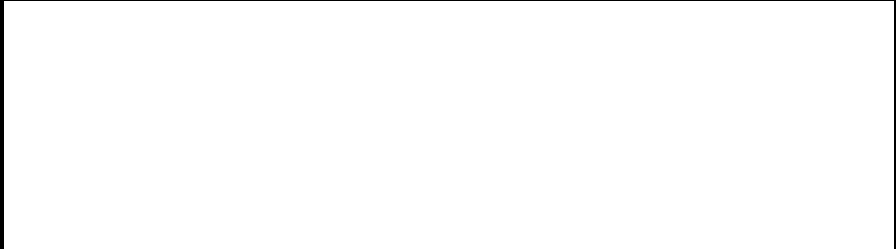




ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Coast Guardsmen from units throughout the state of Florida gathered together at the BLACKTHORN Memorial Jan. 28, 2007, to pay their respects to the 23 Coast Guardsmen lost in the sinking of the CGC BLACKTHORN Jan. 28, 1980.  
USCG photo by PA3 Sondra-Kay Kneen

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444 SE Quincy Street  
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

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